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	CIAE-00	COME-00	C-01	OASY-00	DINT-05	DODE-00	DOEE-00
	ANHR-01	EAP-01	EB-01	EUR-01	E-01	HA-09	H-01
	INM-02	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00	NEA-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	NSF-01	OES-09	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SIL-00	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SS-00	STR-16	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SA-01
	EPAE-00	RPE-01	CORE-00	/118W			

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4502

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KIGALI 03080

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: AORC, PREL, PREF, PHUM, SENV, UN, RW

SUBJECT: 48TH UNGA: KEY THEMES AND RWANDA

REFS: (A) STATE 23768G, (B) STATE 224655

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY. RWANDA'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER USED U.S. DEMARCHE ON UNGA KEY THEMES (REF B) AS A WORKING SESSION TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH U.N. ISSUES. HIS COMMENTS ON EACH ISSUE, WHICH CENTERED ON ITS IMPACT ON UN EFFICIENCY OR WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE, BY AND LARGE SUPPORTED U.S. POSITIONS. HIS STAFF, MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE U.N. ISSUES AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, AMENDED THE MINISTER'S COMMENTS TO REFLECT STANDARD RWANDAN POSITIONS AND THIRD WORLD CONCERNS. WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT RWANDA TO SUPPORT

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U.S. POSITIONS ON ALL KEY THEMES EXCEPT SECURITY  
COUNCIL REFORM AND POSSIBLY MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS.  
END SUMMARY.

3. CHARGE MET AUGUST 16 WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ANANTASE GASAWA TO PRESENT REF B DEMARCHE. ALSO PRESENT WERE HIS DIRECTOR OF CABINET, DEOGRATIAS HAVUGIMANA, AND THE OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, ILDEPHONSE HABYAKARE. CHARGE GAVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF EACH THEME AND PROVIDED THE MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES WITH A COPY OF THE TALKING POINTS. THE MINISTER THEN WENT OVER EACH THEME GIVING HIS OFF-THE-CUFF COMMENTS. HIS STAFF AMPLIFIED HIS COMMENTS, EDUCATING THE MINISTER AS THEY WENT ALONG ON STANDARD RWANDAN POSITIONS AND UN POLITICS.

4. ACCOUNTABILITY. MINISTER GASANA EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS THROUGH MORE EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF UN

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RESOURCES. HE SAID THE U.S. WAS JUSTIFIED IN ITS CONCERN AND THAT RWANDA SHARED THIS CONCERN COMPLETELY. HE THINKS THAT THE IDEA OF ESTABLISHING AN OVERSIGHT BUREAU IS A GOOD ONE.

5. PEACEKEEPING. THE MINISTER, ACKNOWLEDGING RISING PEACEKEEPING COSTS, SUGGESTED EMPHASIZING AND INVESTING IN CONFLICT PREVENTION IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE DEMAND FOR PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. HE ALSO CRITICIZED THE MARKETING OF ARMS WHICH GAVE ARMS MERCHANTS A VESTED INTEREST IN KEEPING CONFLICTS GOING. HE SUGGESTED DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR DEPRIVING ARMS MERCHANTS OF THEIR PROFITS FROM WAR. HE SPECULATED THAT CHANGING THE ASSESSMENT SCALE FOR PEACEKEEPING MIGHT BE DIFFICULT.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. THE MINISTER SAID THAT RWANDA SUPPORTS A PLANNED, COORDINATED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATED ACROSS THE SOCIAL SECTORS OF A COUNTRY. A COMMON LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID, WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE.

7. DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS. MINISTER GASANA

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SUPPORTS CREATION OF A HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. PEOPLE, HE SAID, ARE AT THE CENTER OF RWANDA'S PREOCCUPATION. HE SAID SUCH AN OFFICE SHOULD HELP REDUCE CONFLICT AND THEREBY REDUCE PEACEKEEPING EXPENDITURES. HIS CABINET DIRECTOR NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE UN TO DEFINE CLEARLY THE MANDATE OF THE OFFICE AND ITS MISSIONS IN

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RELATION TO EXISTING UN HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS.  
HABYAKARE, WHO ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIENNA, SAID RWANDA'S DELEGATION HAD SUPPORTED THE IDEA FOR A HIGH COMMISSIONER AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO AS LONG AS IT MEANT REINFORCING EXISTING INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN CREATING ENTIRELY NEW ONES. HE SAID THE OFFICE SHOULD SERVE AS AN UMBRELLA TO BRING TOGETHER THE OTHER UN HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS.

8. SECURITY COUNCIL COMPOSITION. THE MINISTER SAW LITTLE PROBLEM WITH THE U.S. POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. HIS STAFF, HOWEVER, EXPLAINED THAT THE AFRICA GROUP WANTS ONE PERMANENT SEAT ON THE COUNCIL AND THE ELIMINATION OF THE VETO FOR PERMANENT MEMBERS. THEY SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR RWANDA TO SUPPORT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 KIGALI 03080

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TAGS: AORC, PREL, PREF, PHUM, SENV, UN, RW

SUBJECT: 48TH UNGA: KEY THEMES AND RWANDA

PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP FOR JAPAN AND GERMANY WITHOUT  
RECIPROCAL SUPPORT FOR A PERMANENT AFRICAN SEAT.

DESPITE THIS EXPLANATION, THE MINISTER BELIEVES IT  
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WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR AN AFRICAN COUNTRY TO FULFILL  
THE ROLE OF A PERMANENT SC MEMBER, NOTING THAT  
PERMANENT MEMBERS HAVE DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS,  
INCLUDING FINANCIAL ONES, AS WELL AS RIGHTS. HE SAID  
THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD NEED TO DISCUSS  
THOROUGHLY THE MECHANISMS BY WHICH THEY THOUGHT THEY  
COULD MANAGE A ROTATIONAL AFRICAN SEAT. THE MINISTER  
ALSO BELIEVES IT IS PREMATURE TO CHANGE THE  
ATTRIBUTES OF PERMANENT MEMBERS AND SAID CHANGING THE  
VETO POWER SHOULD BE STUDIED.

9. UN FINANCE. STAFF MEMBERS EXPLAINED TO THE  
MINISTER THAT RWANDA HAS SUPPORTED ZERO BUDGET GROWTH  
FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS. THE MINISTER REITERATED  
HIS SUPPORT FOR UN EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS. HE  
CALLED ZERO GROWTH A GOOD MANAGEMENT TOOL.

10. HUMANITARIAN RELIEF. MINISTER GASANA NOTED

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APPROVINGLY THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO DHA AIMED AT IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS. HE SAID HE SUPPORTS COORDINATION AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY IN RESPONDING TO HUMAN CATASTROPHES. ONE NEVER KNOWS, HE SAID, WHERE TRAGEDY WILL STRIKE NEXT, CITING TO RECENT CNN COVERAGE OF UNEXPECTED TORNADOES IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH.

11. MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS. THE MINISTER SAID HE SUPPORTS NEGOTIATIONS TO RESOLVE CONFLICT. HE SAID THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD SUPPORT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND HELP THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT TOWARD COHABITATION. NEITHER  
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HE NOR HIS STAFF MEMBERS COMMENTED ON RWANDA'S POSITION ON THE RESOLUTIONS THAT WILL COME BEFORE THE UNGA.

12. COMMENT. DO NOT EXPECT ANY RADICAL DEPARTURES IN RWANDAN POSITIONS FROM THOSE OF LAST YEAR. IF GASAMA, WHO WAS NAMED TO HIS POSITION IN MID-JULY, REMAINS MINISTER LONG ENOUGH TO INFLUENCE RWANDAN POSITIONS AT THE 48TH UNGA, WE COULD SEE IMPROVED COINCIDENCE OF VOTES. HOWEVER, AS HIS STAFF NOTED, RWANDA'S POSITIONS IN THE UN, ARE, MORE OFTEN THAN NOTEN LINKED TO THOSE OF REGIONAL GROUPS. IN ANY CASE, GASANA'S TENURE AT THE MFA COULD BE SHORTLIVED UNLESS HE IS REAPPOINTED TO THE GOVERNMENT SCHEDULED UNDER THE PEACE ACCORD TO TAKE OFFICE IN SEPTEMBER.  
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